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Guyana / Surinam Bdy

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ACTION ARAAWP

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 RSR-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20
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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4649

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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JUN 20

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SUBJECT GUYANA-SURINAM BORDER DISPUTE: BURNHAM-SEDNEY AGREEMENTS

1. GUYANA AND SURINAM APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL IN SHELIVING
 BORDER DISPUTE AND SHARPLY IMPROVING RELATIONS AS RESULT
 RECENT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND JUST CONCLUDED FOUR-
 DAY VISIT TO GUYANA BY SURINAM PRIME MINISTER SEDNEY.
 JUNE 27 TWO GOVERNMENTS ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH
 ANNOUNCED: "IMMEDIATE DEMILITARIZATION"
 DISPUTED UPPER CORENTYNE REGION; ESTABLISHMENT PERMANENT
 SURINAM-GUYANA COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH BORDER PROBLEM AND
 SEEK MEANS FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS;
 OPENING "AT AN EARLY DATE" OF SURINAMESE
 CONSULATE GENERAL IN GEORGETOWN; AND PLANS FOR OFFICIAL
 BURNHAM VISIT TO SURINAM IN OCTOBER.

2. NO RPT NO FINAL SOLUTION TO CONFLICTING CLAIMS TO

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UPPER CORENTYNE REGION ANNOUNCED, AND IT IS CLEAR NEITHER GOVERNMENT IS ABANDONING ITS CLAIMS. HOWEVER, AS IN CASE GUYANA-VENEZUELA BORDER DISPUTE, LEADERS HAVE EVIDENTLY DECIDED SHELVE DISPUTE FOR PRESENT AND TRY PROMOTE BETTER RELATIONS. AS IN CASE RECENT VENEZUELA-GUYANA AGREEMENT, SHELVE DISPUTE PERMITS GUYANA CONTINUE EXERCISE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OVER CONTESTED REGION, AND MOVE THEREFORE MUCH IN GUYANESE INTEREST. UNLIKE VENEZUELA-GUYANA AGREEMENT, "MORATORIUM" ON GUYANA-SURINAM DISPUTE NOT SHELVED OUT FORMALLY AND NO TIME LIMIT PUT ON IT.

3. IN REGARD TO CONTINUING EFFORT FINALLY RESOLVE BORDER DISPUTE, COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED FORMATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE WHICH WILL APPARENTLY BE APPENDAGE OF PERMANENT SURINAM-GUYANA COMMISSION. COMMUNIQUE STATES, QUOTE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE SURINAM/GUYANA COMMISSION SHALL BE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTINUING THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE ADJOURNED IN LONDON IN JUNE 1966, AND THAT, PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THIS WORK, THE COMMITTEE SHALL, THROUGH PROCEDURES TO BE AGREED, EXERCISE SPECIAL FACT-FINDING FUNCTIONS IN RELATION TO SOURCES OF DISHARMONY IN THE REGION OF THE UPPER CORENTYNE WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT SUCH SITUATIONS DO NOT DISTURB FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OR PREJUDICE THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF PROGRAMMES OF COOPERATION AGREED UPON. UNQUOTE.

4. SEDNEY AND BURNHAM HELD SEPARATE PRESS CONFERENCES JUNE 27 TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ANNOUNCED IN COMMUNIQUE. ON DEMILITARIZATION BURNHAM SAID MOVEMENT OF TROOPS OUT OF UPPER CORENTYNE WOULD TAKE PLACE "WITHIN THE MONTH" AND SEDNEY PUT IT "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, MAYBE WITHIN A VERY FEW WEEKS". AS ONLY GUYANA NOW HAS TROOPS IN DISPUTED AREA, THIS IS IN FACT UNILATERAL ACTION AND REPRESENTS CONCESSION BY GOG, BUT BOTH LEADERS CAREFUL NOT TO PRESENT MATTER IN SUCH TERMS.

5. SEDNEY INDICATED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THAT AREAS FOR IMMEDIATE COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS INCLUDED "CULTURAL FIELD, EXCHANGE OF TECHNICIANS, TRAINING OF PERSONNEL AND SPORTS". FOR FUTURE, SEDNEY MENTIONED AIR LINKS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES BY ZOUR OWN NATIONAL CARRIERS", FERRY SERVICE ACROSS CORENTYNE,

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CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS, AND "DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL THREE GUYANAS". BOTH BURNHAM AND SEDNEY TOUCHED ON POSSIBILITIES COOPERATION IN BAUSITE AND HYDRO POWER DEVELOPMENTS, BUT NEITHER GAVE DETAILS. BURNHAM INDICATED THAT HE WILL CONTINUE SEEK CARIBBEAN WIDE EFFORT CONTROL BAUXITE INDUSTRY FOR BENEFIT CARIBBEAN PRODUCERS.

6. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY SURINAM ENTRY INTO CARIFTA, BURNHAM SAID GOG PLACING NO BARRIERS TO SURINAM ENTRY. SEDNEY NOTED SURINAM ASSOCIATED WITH EEC, AND CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS WITH GUYANA AND CARIFTA WILL REQUIRE STUDY BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

7. INsofar AS ATMOSPHERE CONCERNED, VISIT APPARENTLY OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. SEDNEY SAID GUYANESE HOSPITALITY "EXCEEDED ALL OUT EXPECTATIONS" AND BURNHAM COMMENTED VISIT "OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL". LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE AND ALL OFFICIAL STATEMENTS NOTHING SHORT OF ENTHUSIASTIC ON IMPROVEMENT RELATIONS AND WARM FRIENDSHIP TWO COUNTRIES.

8. TEXT JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND SEDNEY STATEMENT TO PRESS BEING POUCHED.
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